

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, **"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."**

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (NIV)

INTRO - I'll begin in a different way. We are in the Advent Season preparing for Christmas. Christmas is about Jesus. We receive the Savior and worship Him. But, one of the best ways that we worship God, 'with all our heart soul and mind,' is when we 'love our neighbors like ourselves.' I want a chance to spend time visiting 'loving my neighbors. So, I'm inviting you all, the whole church, to an open house at our home again. On Wednesday after Christmas we invite all of you to come over to our new house and have some food, spend time, visit, and share. I'm inviting you all to an open house at our house, a way for God's people to spend time together.

I. Boys and Girls I have a favor to ask you.

A. I've given you an invitation.

1. On the Wednesday after Christmas would you tell your parents, 'let's go to Pastor's House. He's having a party. There will be food, let's go.
2. You have an invitation, please encourage YOUR family to attend. We'd really like to share some time with you as fellow Christians.

B. Do you know what has happened in our play.

1. God sent an invitation to the shepherds.
2. Through the angels God told the Shepherds about the birth of Jesus.
3. But they had to go to Bethlehem to see Jesus and receive the Savior.
4. So, we are told in today's last Bible reading that they said to each other, **"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."**

II. Jesus comes to us today, in the Scriptures, in the Christmas program, through the angels. He is calling us to come and receive His gift of forgiveness, or eternal life in a Savior.

A. The words of the shepherds are appropriate for us too. **"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."**

1. How do we go to see Jesus?
2. We find Jesus in His Word. Boys and Girls you find Jesus in Sunday School and learning about Him.
3. We find Jesus in worship, on Sundays, and our special worship services on Wednesdays and special Christmas services.
4. We find Jesus in Baptism and the Lord's Supper and the forgiveness He gives.

B. But, mainly we celebrate Christmas by going to find the Savior.

CONCLUSION - Today we have an invitation from God to receive His love, and we have an example from the Shepherds. **"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."**